

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T STATE 247694 TOSEC 110036

EXDIS-DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IS, US

SUBJECT: DINITZ CALL ON SAUNDERS SEPTEMBER 28

DELIVER TO AMBASSADOR LEWIS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR
JERUSALEM 7:40 A.M. SEPTEMBER 29

1. DINITZ CAME TO SEE SAUNDERS AT NOON TODAY TO CARRY
OUT AN INSTRUCTION FROM BEGIN TO SPEAK TO THE SECRETARY
ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS YESTERDAY TO THE "GODFREY
SPERLING BREAKFAST GROUP." DINITZ SAID HE HAD BEEN
ROUSED FROM BED IN MIAMI AT FIVE O'CLOCK THIS MORNING
BY A PHONE CALL FROM BEGIN. BEGIN ASKED DINITZ TO SEE
THE SECRETARY RIGHT AWAY TO SAY THAT HE HAD BEEN "PARTI-
CULARLY DISTURBED" OVER THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ABOUT
THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT'S AND BEGIN'S
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UNDERSTANDINGS ON WHETHER HE HAD AGREED TO THE TEXT THE
PRESIDENT PROPOSED ON SETTLEMENTS. SAUNDERS EXPLAINED
THAT WE HAD TRIED TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT FOR DINITZ
WITH THE SECRETARY BUT HIS SCHEDULE WAS JUST TOO TIGHT.

2. DINITZ SAID BEGIN HAD ASKED HIM TO SAY THAT PRESI-
DENT'S MAKING SUCH A STATEMENT PUBLICLY WAS NOT IN CONFOR-

MITY WITH WHAT WAS AGREED WHEN HE LEFT THE UNITED STATES
THAT THIS ISSUE WOULD BE DISCUSSED FURTHER, AND THAT

FURTHERMORE THIS ISSUE WAS AFFECTING HIS CREDIBILITY. ON
A MORE GENERAL LEVEL, DINITZ SAID THE PRIME MINISTER FELT
THAT WE WERE NOT GIVING ENOUGH CONSIDERATION TO THE
"DIFFICULTIES HE FACES IN THE STRUGGLE IN ISRAEL." HE
SEES A HIGH SENSITIVITY IN THE U.S. TO SADAT'S PROBLEMS
BUT LITTLE TOWARD HIS OWN. THE KNESSET DEBATE HAD COST
BEGIN "BLOOD AND HEART" AND HE COULD NEVER DESCRIBE WHAT
PAIN IT CAUSED HIM TO SEE HIS FRIENDS CARRYING BLACK
UMBRELLAS AND ACCUSING HIM OF SIGNING ANOTHER MUNICH.
BEGIN TOLD DINITZ HE UNDERSTOOD THE PRESIDENT WAS HAVING
A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY AND WANTED HIS VIEWS CONVEYED
TO US BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S SEPTEMBER 28 PRESS CON-
FERENCE.

3. DINITZ SAID BEGIN DOES NOT DENY THAT THE PRESIDENT
PROPOSED HIS FORMULA BUT IS SURE HE DID NOT AGREE TO IT;
BARAK'S NOTES CONFIRM THIS. BEGIN ASKED FOR OUR UNDER-
STANDING THAT ISRAEL COULD NOT GIVE AN OPEN-ENDED COMMIT-
MENT TO NO FURTHER SETTLEMENTS AND COULD NOT GIVE THE
PALESTINIANS OR JORDAN A VETO ON THIS ISSUE. DINITZ SAID
BEGIN INDICATED THAT HE WAS READY TO CONTINUE DISCUSSING
THIS ISSUE WITH THE U.S., BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT ISRAEL
AND THE U.S. HAVE A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ON IT.

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4. DINITZ THEN WENT ON TO SAY, ON HIS OWN, THAT HE DID
NOT THINK BEGIN HAD SEEN THE FULL TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S
REMARKS, FOR IF BEGIN HAD HE WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH
DISTURBED BY THE PRESIDENT'S REMARK THAT NO ARAB LEADER
COULD IGNORE OR YIELD ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WEST
BANK AND GAZA, THE RETURN OF EAST JERUSALEM TO ARAB
SOVEREIGNTY, AND THE RESOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROB-
LEM. DINITZ SAID HE PERSONALLY HAD BEEN VERY MUCH DIS-
TURBED BY THESE REMARKS BECAUSE THEY TENDED TO UNDERCUT
ISRAEL'S NEGOTIATING POSITION; IF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES SAYS THE ARABS CANNOT YIELD ON THESE POINTS,
IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE ARABS TO DO SO EVEN IF THEY
WANTED TO.

5. DINITZ WENT ON TO SOME LENGTHS TO MAKE THE POINT THAT
IT HAD BEEN UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FREEZE ON SETTLEMENTS WAS
TO BE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS. HE CITED A QUESTION
FROM THE PRESIDENT TO WEIZMAN ABOUT WHAT SETTLEMENTS
ISRAEL WAS PLANNING TO ESTABLISH OVER THE NEXT THREE
MONTHS. HE ALSO CITED TWO PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY SADAT TO
THE EFFECT THAT ISRAEL HAD AGREED TO FREEZE NEW SETTLE-

MENTS FOR THREE MONTHS.

6. STRESSING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON AN ENTIRELY PERSONAL BASIS AND WITHOUT HAVING CONSULTED WITH HIS GOVERNMENT, DINITZ SAID WE SHOULD LOOK FOR A FORMULA THAT WOULD TIE THE THREE MONTH FREEZE TO BOTH THE EGYPT-ISRAEL AND THE WEST BANK/GAZA NEGOTIATIONS AND SAY THAT IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS ONE OF THE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED WOULD BE THE QUESTION OF SETTLEMENTS. DINITZ SAID HE SAW TWO POSSIBLE WAYS TO DO THIS: 1) COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING THAT U.S. AND ISRAEL WILL CONSULT ABOUT THE SETTLEMENTS ISSUE AFTER THE THREE MONTHS;OR 2) HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT ONCE NEGOTIATIONS START ON THE WEST BANK ALL THE TOPICS, IN-
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CLUDING THE SETTLEMENTS, WILL BE DISCUSSED. (DINITZ ASKED THAT HE NOT BE QUOTED AS HAVING GIVEN US THESE SUGGESTIONS.)

7. SAUNDERS SAID HE WOULD PASS ON TO THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT WHAT DINITZ HAD TOLD HIM.

CHRISTOPHER

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